However, due to difficulties relating to taxation issues at State level and inconsistent availability of ethanol the programme was taken up in a phased manner. Further, due to continuous difficulties in sourcing ethanol consistently at reasonable prices, Gazette Notification No. 705(E) dated 27.10.2004 was issued. In terms of the notification, as long as the prices of ethanol are competitive and reasonable, and supply of ethanol is adequate, the oil marketing companies are statutorily required to lift the same and supply the ethanol blended petrol in notified areas. The areas which have been notified are the States of Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Andhra Pradesh (all districts except Chittoor and Nellore), Tamil Nadu (only districts Coimbatore, Dindigul, Erode, Kanyakumari, Nilgiri, Ramanathpuram, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, and Virudhunagar), and the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

The oil marketing companies have decided to invite tenders for procuring ethanol in terms of the Gazette notification dated 27.10.2004.

Subsidy on diesel to farmers

2011. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering of giving subsidy on diesel to farmers;

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken; and

(c) the amount of subsidy proposed to be given?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The issue regarding providing relief to farmers using diesel pump sets for irrigation is under examination of the Government.

Planting of Pongomia and Jatropha Trees

2012. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of successful experiment of

production of bio-diesel out of the seeds of Pongomia, Jatropha and Karanjia conducted in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal;

(b) whether Government are also aware that thousands of trees have been planted along the railway lines in Kharagpur in West Bengal and Railway authorities expect to run trains by bio-diesel in next two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government intend to plant these trees to facilitate production of the bio-diesel in other States of the country including Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) National Oilseeds and Vegetables Oils Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture have informed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that they are aware of experimental production of bio-diesel from oil seeds in the States of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways have informed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that Railway is planting Jatropha curcus trees on their own land, including that at Kharagpur. Preliminary studies, including field trials, have been done for running diesel locomotives on bio-diesel. As and when bio-diesel becomes freely available commercially, detailed planning can be undertaken to exploit this fuel as a regular option.

(d) Studies have been undertaken to explore the possibility of production of bio-diesel from non-edible oils like Jatropha curcus and Pongomia. The Ministry of Rural Development have been made the nodal Ministry to implement the National Mission on Bio-diesel. That Ministry has informed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that a detailed project report has been recently prepared by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for the purpose.

ONGC's investments in Karnataka

2013. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC had mooted proposals for massive investments in Karnataka, both in oil processing and power generation sectors;

(b) if so, the size and location of the proposed facilities; and